

April 7, 1988

LB 855, 858, 899, 940, 940A, 1030, 1089
1110, 1143, 1143A, 1207, 1207A, 1217, 1221
1221A, 1226

because some of the athletes need financial aid for expense money? The federal government offers Pell grants for those who cannot provide for expenses not covered by their athletic scholarships. The maximum grant is \$1,400 a year, or \$116 a month, for individuals that need the money and come from backgrounds that are not able to afford it. Now Senator Chambers, I believe, has shown a great deal of concern, good concern for the university players. And I do feel that he does have the interests...the best interests of the players at heart by introducing this particular legislation. I think that the Legislature acted in a wise manner by enacting a law that demanded that scholarship benefits of an injured athlete be honored until the full scholarship is exhausted. But I do feel that the...by paying amateur athletes it violates that particular code that separates an individual from an amateur and professional athlete. What is at stake today is the amateur code in major college athletics. I don't believe we should violate our own state Constitution and the principles of amateur competition by paying football players. I believe that precisely because we are recognized as a football state, the State Legislature of Nebraska ought to go on record supporting the principle of amateur college athletics and I don't believe that by enacting this particular bill we are doing that. As I stated, I plan on withdrawing this particular amendment, because offering any amendment to a bill would, in fact, kill the bill. And I do feel that it should be given ample opportunity to be voted on by this body, but I will leave the amendment up for discussion by the members of the body. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LB 855, LB 858, LB 899, LB 940, LB 940A, LB 1030, LB 1089, LB 1110, LB 1143, LB 1143A, LB 1207, LB 1207A, LB 1217, LB 1221, LB 1221A. Senator Chambers, please, then Senator Hefner.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, although Senator Abboud has milked this cow once, he wants to take another shot at it. And since he is trying to put things into the record, it shouldn't be necessary to make misstatements as to the Constitution, the powers of the Legislature, or what this bill does in order to state an opinion in opposition to the bill. Now, Senator Abboud is right. I fought hard to get a bill into law, with the assistance of the Legislature, that put an insurance program in place for athletes like none in the country. Senator Abboud did not assist in that effort. When